

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 DOE-11 SOE-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3305
INFO USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02787

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM, UK
SUBJECT: CANADIAN CUT OFF PROPOSAL

SUMMARY: FCO HAS REITERATED UK OPPOSITION TO CANADIAN PROPOSAL ON CUT OFF OF THE PRODUCTION OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES, AND WISHES USG TO TAKE UK POSITION FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN CONSIDERING US POSITION. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CURRENT WASHINGTON VIEWS FOR RESPONDING TO BRITISH.

1. FCO (BURNS, DEPUTY HEAD ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT OFFICE) CALLED IN EMBOFF FEBRUARY 17 TO CONVEY BRITISH OPPOSITION TO LATEST CANADIAN PROPOSALS ON CUT OFF IDEA. BURNS NOTED CANADA HAD DROPPED EFFORT TO INCLUDE CONCEPT IN UNSSODDRAFT PROGRAM OF ACTION, BUT INTENDED SUBMIT SEPARATE PAPER TO PREPCOM.

2. READING FROM MEMO, BURNS SAID UK BELIEVED STRONGLY THAT CANADIAN PROPOSAL WOULD BE "INJURIOUS TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DEVELOPMENT AND REFURBISHMENT OF UK NUCLEAR WEAPONS" AND THUS HARMFUL TO THE UK AS WELL AS NATO NUCLEAR DETERRENT. BURNS CONTINUED THAT UNLIKE US AND USSR, UK DOES NOT HAVE AMPLE STOCKS OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL. IT WOULD BE DISHONEST TO RAISE STOCKS IN CONTEMPLATION OF A CUT OFF AND BESIDES THERE IS NO PRACTICAL WAY FOR THE UK TO ACCUMULATE THEM. MOREOVER, CONCEPT IS

"COMPLETELY UNVERIFIABLE," EXCEPT BY PHYSICAL INSPECTION
US AND UK HAVE AGREED TO INSPECTION ONLY OF CIVIL
NUCLEAR FACILITIES, WHILE SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN NO SIGN OF
ACCEPTING EVEN THIS LIMITED STEP.

3. BURNS SAID FCO HAS DISCUSSED MATTER WITH CANADIAN
HICOM IN LONDON WITH REQUEST UK VIEWS BE REGISTERED AT
"HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL" IN OTTAWA. UK STRONGLY BELIEVE
CANADIANS SHOULD NOT PUT FORWARD PROPOSAL AT UNSSOD
THAT WOULD BE HARMFUL FOR NATO WITHOUT AT LEAST FURTHER
CONSULTATIONS WITH NATO MEMBERS.

4. ON BASIS OF UK TALKS WITH CANADIANS SO FAR, FCO
HAS IMPRESSION USG IS INCLINED TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL OR AT
BEST (FROM UK VIEWPOINT) ADOPT POSITION OF "BENEVOLENT
NEUTRALITY." MOREOVER, FCO UNDERSTANDS USG IS FORMULA-
TING LIST OF INITIATIVES FOR POSSIBLE USE BY US
DELEGATION AT UNSSOD AND THAT CUT OFF PROPOSAL MAY BE
INCLUDED. BURNS STRESSED THAT UK WOULD FIND THIS OF
"GRAVE CONCERN" IF TRUE, AND STRONGLY HOPES UK VIEWS WIL
BE GIVEN THOROUGH AND FAVORABLE ATTENTION IN WASHINGTON.
(UK EMBASSY WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO FOLLOW-UP.)

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE RECALL BARTON GROUP ADDRESSED
THIS POINT IN JANUARY (USUN 243, PARA 5) AT WHICH TIME
US REP INDICATED HE WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS BUT IN
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LIGHT OF PREVIOUS U.S. ATTITUDES WOULD NOT OBJECT TO
USION OF CUT OFF ITEM IN DRAFT PROGRAM OF ACTION.
WE WOULD APPRECIATE SUMMARY OF CURRENT WASHINGTON
THINKING ON CUT OFF PROPOSAL TOGETHER WITH WHATEVER
REASSURANCE WE CAN CONVEY TO FCO CONCERNING UK VIEWS
REPORTED ABOVE.

STREATOR

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